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## **Senate Majority Leader Announces Chief of Staff's Departure**

*Suzanne Miller Allen ending 10 year run with Sen. Sikkema for private-sector job*

**Lansing** - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, today announced that Chief of Staff Suzanne Miller Allen will be leaving his office at the end of June.

"I've known for several months that Suzanne was looking for another position, but when she told me last week that she had found one, I finally had to accept that she really was leaving," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "During the past 10 years, Suzanne has become a trusted friend and ally. There are no words to adequately describe how much her work has meant to me, the Legislature and the people of Michigan. She will be missed in ways we have not yet even begun to fathom."

Allen has served as Sikkema's chief of staff since January 1997, first when he was House Republican Leader and since he was elected to the Senate. Prior to working for Sikkema, Allen was chief of staff for House Speaker Paul Hillegonds. She previously worked for Sen. Dick Posthumus.

"I've had the privilege of working for some of the finest legislative leaders in this state's history and leaving Sen. Sikkema before he's completed his final term in office was not an easy decision," Allen said. "Unfortunately, term limits means an amazing era of Michigan politics is ending and many people will be looking for other opportunities."

Sikkema said he expects to make an announcement naming a new chief of staff prior to Allen's departure.

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